Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024551 ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /055 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA: JWCHAMBERLIN APPROVED BY ARA/ECARWZIMMERMANN ARA/ECA:RGRAHAM ARA::LISTER

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TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: UNCLASSIFIED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR CONGRESS

REF: STATE 23792; GRAHAM-BRIGGS TELECON(1/30/78)

- 1. FOLLOWING INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH WAS INADVERTEDLY OMITTED FROM REFTEL CONTAINING REPORT. THIS PARAGRAPH PRECEEDES ALL OTHER IN THE REPORT.QUOTE:
- 2. PARAGUAY HAS A TRADITION OF AUTHORITARIAN RULE. THE PRESIDENT, GENERAL ALFREDO STROESSNER, HAS GOVERNED FOR OVER 23 YEARS. HE IS EXPECTED TO BE REELECTED TO A NEW FIVE-YEAR TERM IN FEBRUARY 1978. THERE HAVE BEEN CYCLES OF REPRESSION IN PARAGUAY UNDER PRESIDENT STROESSNER. RECENTLY H6RE MAN BEEN SMPRRFEMENTIN AOME ASPES GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE, BUT ABUSES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINUE. A MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO ABUSE IS A STATE OF SIEGE WHICH HAS BEEN IN FORCE SINCE 1947. DURING 1977, RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEEDED NEW ARRESTS, WITH THE YEAR END ESTIMATE OF THOSE STILL IN CUSTODY BELOW 200. HOWEVER, 19 CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS WERE ARRESTED IN DECEMBER. UNQUOTE 3. PER TELCON, "INSTABILITY" SHOULD BE "STABILITY." VANCE

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